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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 21154-000810US

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On December 4, 2003

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: [Signature]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

ALBERT LEUNG et al.

Application No.: 10/650,360

Filed: August 27, 2003

For: OPTIMIZING STORAGE
CAPACITY UTILIZATION BASED
UPON DATA STORAGE COSTS

Customer No.: 20350

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2186

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the
following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this
paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 16 of this paper.